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bird-dog also **bird-dog** (bûrd' dŏg', -dŏg') — *v.* -dogged, -dogging, -dogs. — *intr.* To follow a subject of interest, such as a person or trend, with persistent attention. — *tr.* 1. To observe or follow closely; monitor: *bird-dogged the suspect's movements*. 2. To seek out (talent or clients, for example).

bird-er (bûr' dər) *n.* 1. A bird watcher. 2.a. A breeder of birds. b. A hunter of birds.

bird-feed or **bird-feed** (bûrd' fēd') *n.* Birdseed.

bird-foot violet (bûrd' fŏot') *n.* Var. of **bird's-foot violet**.

bird-house (bûrd' hous') *n.* 1. A box with one or more small entry holes, made as a nesting place for birds. 2. An aviary.

bird-le (bûr' dē) *n.* 1. Informal. A small bird. 2. Sports. a. One stroke under par for a hole in golf. b. See **shuttlecock**. — *tr.v.* -led, -le-ing, -les. Sports. To shoot (a hole in golf) in one stroke under par.

bird-lime (bûrd' lim') *n.* 1. A sticky substance that is smeared on branches or twigs to capture small birds. 2. Something that captures or ensnares. — *tr.v.* -limed, -lim-ing, -limes. 1. To smear with birdlime. 2. To catch with or as if with birdlime.

bird louse *n.* See **biting louse**.

bird-man (bûrd' mən) *n.* 1. (also -mān'). One, such as an ornithologist, who works with birds. 2. Slang. An aviator.

bird of paradise *n., pl.* birds of paradise. 1. Any of various birds of the family Paradisacidae, native to New Guinea and adjacent islands and usu. having brilliant plumage and long tail feathers in the male. 2. Any of several southern African herbs of the genus *Strelitzia*, esp. *S. reginae* having orange and blue flowers.

bird of passage *n., pl.* birds of passage. 1. A migratory bird. 2. A person who moves from place to place frequently.

bird of prey *n., pl.* birds of prey. Any of various predatory, carnivorous birds such as the eagle or hawk.

bird pepper *n.* 1. A variety of pepper (*Capsicum annum* var. *glabrusculum*) that includes the wild forms native to the southern United States and from Mexico south to Colombia. 2. The small, pungent fruit of this plant.

bird-seed (bûrd' sēd') *n.* A mixture of various kinds of seeds raised for feeding birds.

Birds-eye (bûrd' iz') *Clarence*. 1886–1956. Amer. inventor who received more than 300 patents, most notably for methods of quick-freezing food.

birds-eye (bûrd' iz') *n.* 1. A fabric woven with a pattern of small diamonds, each having a dot in the center. 2. The pattern of such a fabric. — *adj.* 1. Marked with a spot or spots resembling a bird's eye or eyes, as the bird's-eye maple. 2. Derived from or as if from an altitude or distance.

birds-eye maple *n.* A form of wood, chiefly of the sugar maple; that is patterned with small rounded figures.

birds-foot trefoil (bûrdz' fŏot') *n.* A perennial Old World herb (*Lotus corniculata*) in the pea family, having golden-yellow flowers and clusters of pods arranged like bird claws.

birds-foot violet also **bird-foot violet** (bûrd' fŏot') *n.* An eastern North American violet (*Viola pedata*) having large flowers and leaves shaped somewhat like a bird's foot.

birds-nest fern (bûrdz' nēst') *n.* An Old World tropical fern (*Asplenium nidus*) having leaves resembling a bird's nest.

birds-nest fungus *n.* Any of various fungi having a cuplike body containing round egglike structures that enclose the spores.

bird watcher or **bird-watch-er** also **bird-watch-er** (bûrd' wŏch'ər) *n.* A person who observes and identifies birds in their natural surroundings. — **bird watching** *n.*

bi-re-frin-gence (bi'ri-frin'jəns) *n.* The reflection or splitting of a light wave into two unequally resolved waves by an optically anisotropic medium. — **bi-re-frin'gent** *adj.*

bi-reme (bi'rēm') *n.* An ancient galley equipped with two tiers of oars on each side. [Lat. *birēmis*: bi-, two; see bi-¹ + *rēmus*, oar; see *era*·-.]

bi-ret-ta also **be-ret-ta** or **ber-ret-ta** (ba-rēt') *n.* A stiff square cap with three or four ridges across the crown, worn esp. by Roman Catholic clergy. [Ital. *berretta* < OProv. *berret*, cap < LLat. *birrus*, hooded cloak, prob. of Celt. orig.]

bi-ri-a-ni (bi'rē-ā'ne) *n.* Var. of **biryani**.

birch (bûrk) *n.* Scots. Birch. [ME *birk* < OE *birce*. See *BIRCH*·.]

Bir-ken-head (bûr' kən-hēd') A borough of NW England at the mouth of the Mersey R. near Liverpool. Pop. 341,000.

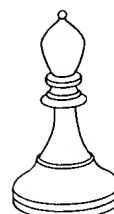
bird (bûrl) *v.* **birded**, **bird-ing**, **birds**. — *tr.* To cause (a floating log) to spin rapidly by rotating with the feet. — *intr.* 1. To participate in birding. 2. To spin. — *n.* A whirring noise; a hum. [Blend of *bird*¹ and *whirl*·.] — **bird-er** *n.*

bird-ing (bûr' ling') *n.* A game, esp. among loggers, in which two competitors try to bird a floating log.

Bir-ming-ham (bûr' ming-hām') *n.* 1. (also -ām). A city of central England NW of London. Pop. 1,022,300. 2. A city of N-central AL NE of Tuscaloosa. Pop. 265,968. 3. A city of SE MI, a suburb of Detroit. Pop. 19,997.

bird¹ (bûr) *n.* 1. A whirring sound. 2. Strong forward momentum; driving force. — *intr.v.* **birded**, **bird-ing**, **birds**. To make a whirring sound. [ME *bir*, favorable wind < ON *byrr*. See *bher*·-¹.]

bird² (bir) *n., pl.* **birr** or **birrs**. See table at **currency**. [Prob. of Amharic orig.]



bishop
Chess piece

ā pat	oi boy
ā pay	ou out
ār care	ōō took
ā father	ōō boot
ē pet	ū cut
ē be	ūr urge
ī pit	th thin
ī pie	th this
īr pier	hw which
ō pot	zh vision
ō toe	ə about.
ō paw	item

Stress marks:
 ' (primary);
 ' (secondary), as in
 dictionary (dík' shà-ně'r'ě)